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ABSTRACT

Conducting research in the field of genealogy requires the use of many different historical and recent materials in libraries and elsewhere. This guide provides an annotated bibliography of useful library tools, a basic strategy for research, and a list of other sources of information to help trace a family tree. Although comprehensive, this bibliography is by no means an exhaustive list of genealogical sources; rather, it is meant as an introduction to categories of materials. The following types of sources are included in the bibliography: handbooks and guides (17 titles); dictionaries (8 titles); indexes (10 titles); directories (16 titles); bibliographies (21 titles); newspapers and newspaper indexes (6 titles); census records (8 titles); military records (6 titles); church and cemetery records (2 titles); land records (2 titles); periodicals (13 titles); history and family histories (3 titles); agencies (9 titles); and other sources of information (13 titles). (JLB)

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WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
LIBRARY RESOURCES IN GENEALOGY

Jeanette Smith, Compiler

1993

Page

BEGINNING YOUR RESEARCH 2
Handbooks and Guides 2

OTHER LIBRARY SOURCES 4
Dictionaries 4
Indexes 5
Directories 6
Bibliographies 7
Newspapers and Newspaper Indexes 9
Census 9
Federal Census 9
State Census 10
Military Records 10
Church and Cemetery Records . . 11
Land Records 12
Periodicals 12
History and Family Histories . . 13

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION 13

AGENCIES 14

Conducting research in the field of genealogy requires the use of many different historical and recent materials in libraries and elsewhere. This guide provides a bibliography of useful library tools, a basic strategy for research, and a list of other sources of information to help you trace your family tree. Note the many sources published by the federal government, which are available at libraries with collections of government documents. Large public libraries also often specialize in genealogical materials.

Although comprehensive, this bibliography is by no means an exhaustive list of genealogical sources. Rather, it is meant to introduce you to categories of materials.

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BEGINNING YOUR RESEARCH

Handbooks and guides are excellent starting points for genealogical research. They can provide general background information on all aspects of the subject, define unfamiliar terms, and offer bibliographies of other sources. If there is an index, it should be used for best access to a subject.

HANDBOOKS AND GUIDES

Babbel, June Andrew. *Lest We Forget: A Guide to Genealogical Research in the Nation's Capital.* 4th rev. ed. Annandale: LDS Church, 1976.

How to access records in the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and other agencies in Washington, D.C.

Baxter, Angus. *In Search of Your German Roots.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1991.

How to trace ancestors in the Germanic areas of Europe.

Beard, Timothy F. *How to Find Your Family Roots.* New York: McGraw, 1977.

A comprehensive guide to genealogical record repositories throughout the world.

Census Bureau. *Age Search Information.* Washington: Bureau of the Census, 1979.

Describes retrieval of personal data about individuals from Census Bureau records.

Doane, Gilbert Harry. *Searching for Your Ancestors: The How and Why of Genealogy.* 6th ed. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1980.

The classic "how to" guide for genealogists.

Eakle, Arlene H. *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*. Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing Company, 1984.

A comprehensive genealogical reference work and guide to the research process.

Everton, George B. *The Handy Book for Genealogists*. 6th ed. Logan: Everton, 1971.

A guide to county and state histories, maps, and libraries.

Everton, George B. *The How Book for Genealogists*. 7th ed. Logan: Everton, 1973.

How to begin research. Also includes a dictionary of genealogical terms.

Greenwood, Val D. *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*. 2nd ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1990.

American research with comprehensive chapters on probate and land records.

Jacobus, Donald. *Genealogy as Pastime and Profession*. 2nd ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1968.

Emphasizes the need for professionalism in genealogical research.

National Archives and Records Administration. *Getting Started: Beginning Your Genealogical Research in the National Archives in Washington*. Washington: National Archives, 1987.

Provides information on the use of census, military service, pension, passenger arrival, naturalization, and land records.

Phillimore, William. *How to Write the History of a Family: A Guide for the Genealogist*. Detroit: Gale, 1972.

Guide to writing a family history.

Rose, James. *Black Genesis.* Gale Genealogy and Local History Ser. 1. Detroit: Gale, 1978.

Lists resources important to Black genealogical research.

Ryskamp, George. *Tracing Your Hispanic Heritage.* Riverside: Hispanic Family Research, 1984.

Uses Hispanic examples for new or advanced researchers who may or may not be fluent in Spanish.

Skalka, Lois Martin. *Tracing, Charting, and Writing Your Family History.* Babylon: Pilot, 1991.

A recent "how-to" guide.

Smith, Clifford Neal. *American Genealogical Resources in German Archives (AGRIGA): A Handbook.* New York: Bowker, 1977.

Resources for research on German lines.

Stetson, Oscar. *The Art of Ancestor Hunting.* New York: S. Daye, 1965.

Distinguishes between ancestral history which traces lines of ascent from a common descendant, and genealogy which traces lines of descent from a common ancestor.

OTHER LIBRARY SOURCES

DICTIONARIES

Dictionaries of surnames and forenames in various languages can be of value to genealogists.

Bahlow, Hans. *Deutsches Namenlexikon: Familien- und Vornamen Nach Ursprung und Sinn Erklart.* Bayreuth: Gondrom, 1982.

Cottle, Basil. *The Penguin Dictionary of Surnames.* Baltimore: Penguin, 1967.

Gottschald, Max. *Deutsche Namenkunde.* 5th ed. Berlin: de Gruyter, 1982.

Hanks, Patrick. *A Dictionary of Surnames.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988.

Smith, Elsdon. *New Dictionary of American Family Names.* New York: Harper, 1973.

War Department. *Guide to Similar Surnames.* Washington: Government Printing Office, 1920.

Withycombe, E.G. *The Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names.* London: Oxford University Press, 1947.

The standard work on English Christian names.

Woods, Richard Donovan. *Spanish Surnames in the Southwestern United States: A Dictionary.* Boston: G.K. Hall, 1978.

INDEXES

Indexes provide access to shorter works within a longer work, such as articles in journals or books.

America: History and Life. Santa Barbara: Clio.

Abstracts of articles and citations of reviews and dissertations covering the history and life of North America, Canada, and the U.S.

American Genealogical Biographical Index. Middletown, Conn.

Continuation of the American Genealogical Index edited by Fremont Rider. Lists hundred of family histories and military rosters.

Barrow, Geoffrey Battiscombe. *The Genealogist's Guide: An Index to Printed British Pedigrees and Family Histories, 1950-1975.* London: Research Publishing Company, 1977.

Includes Irish family histories as well as British.

Biography and Genealogy Master Index. Detroit: Gale.

Indexes more than 3,200,000 biographical sketches in over 350 biographical dictionaries and encyclopedias.

CIS U.S. Serial Set Index. Washington: Congressional Information Service, 1975-1977.

Provides subject/keyword/name and report number access to House and Senate reports and documents, some of which deal with land grants and claims.

Index to American Genealogies. Albany, N.Y.: Joel Munsell's Sons.

One of the earliest commercially published indexes.

Mayflower Index. Boston: The Society, 1932. Revised edition, Tulsa: The Society, 1960.

McMullin, Philip W. *Grassroots of America.* Salt Lake City: Gendex, 1972.

Index of names appearing in the U. S. Serial Set volumes 28-36, which deal with land grants and claims 1789-1837.

National Archives and Records Service. *Inventory.* Washington: Government Printing Office.

Guide and description of an individual National Archives record group.

National Archives and Records Service. *Preliminary Inventories.* Washington: Government Printing Office.

Guide and description of an individual National Archives record group.

DIRECTORIES

Directories are a useful source of names and addresses for the genealogist.

Bentley, Elizabeth P. *The Genealogist's Address Book.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1992.

Directory of Historical Agencies in North America. 13th ed. Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1986.

Filby, P. William. *Directory of American Libraries with Genealogy or Local History Collections.* Wilmington: Scholarly Resources, 1988.

Genealogical Societies and Historical Societies in the United States. Munroe Falls, Ohio: Summit Publications.

Meyer's Directory of Genealogical Societies in the USA and Canada. Mt. Airy, Maryland: Libra Publications.

National Center for Health Statistics. *Where to Write for Vital Records.* Washington: Government Printing Office. Issued every three years.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Bibliographies suggest additional sources of information. Many genealogical books are not available through interlibrary loan, but may be used in person at the owning library.

Bremer, Ronald A. *Selected American Historical Sources: An Annotated Bibliography.* Salt Lake City: Gencor, 1974.

Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints. Genealogical Dept. *Preliminary Survey of the Mexican Collection.* Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1978.

Eakle, Arlene H. *Descriptive Inventory of the English Collection.* Salt Lake City: U of Utah P, 1979.

Filby, P. William. *American & British Genealogy & Heraldry: A Selected List of Books.* 2nd ed. Chicago: American Library Association, 1975.

Covers the U.S., U.K., Canada, Central and South America, and former British Dominions.

Filby, P. William. *A Bibliography of American County Histories.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1985.

Gilmer, Lois C. *Genealogical Research and Resources.* Chicago: American Library Association, 1988.

Lancour, Harold. *Bibliography of Ship Passenger Lists, 1538-1825.* 3rd ed. New York: New York Public Library, 1963.

Lawson, Sandra M. *Generations Past: A Selected List of Sources for Afro-American Genealogical Research.* Washington: Government Printing Office, 1988.

Library of Congress. *American and English Genealogies in the Library of Congress*. 2nd ed. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1919.

Library of Congress. *Genealogical Research at the Library of Congress*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1992.

Library of Congress. *Genealogies Cataloged by the Library of Congress Since 1986*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1991.

Maryland Historical Society. *Guide to the Research Collections of the Maryland Historical Society*. Baltimore: The Society, 1981.

National Archives and Records Service. *Genealogical Records in the National Archives*. Washington: National Archives, 1983.

Describes federal records in the National Archives useful for genealogical research.

National Archives and Records Service. *Genealogical Sources Outside the National Archives*. Washington: National Archives, 1977.

National Archives and Records Service. *Guide to Genealogical Records in the National Archives*. Washington: National Archives, 1964.

National Archives and Records Service. *Guide to the Archives of the Government of the Confederate States of America*. Washington: National Archives, 1968.

National Archives and Records Service. *Guide to the National Archives of the United States*. Washington: National Archives, 1974.

Lists all official U.S. government records in the National Archives as of June 30, 1970, with the exception of presidential papers.

National Archives and Records Service. *List of Record Groups of the National Archives and Records Service*. Washington: National Archives, 1984.

Record groups are arranged by keyword, operating unit, and record group number.

National Archives and Records Service. *Pre-federal Maps in the National Archives: An Annotated List*. Washington: National Archives, 1975.

Reid, Judith. *Sources for Research in English Genealogy.* Washington: Library of Congress, 1989.

Smelser, Ronald M. *Preliminary Survey of the German Collection.* Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1979.

NEWSPAPERS AND NEWSPAPER INDEXES

Many libraries own newspapers of historical value, as well as indexes and directories. Check to see if there are indexes to local newspapers or local obituary files.

American Newspapers, 1821-1936: A Union List of Files Available in the United States and Canada. New York: Wilson, 1937.

Brigham, Clarence S. *History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820.* 2 vols. Worcester: American Antiquarian Society, 1947.

Gale Directory of Publications and Broadcast Media. Detroit: Gale.

Milner, Anita Cheek. *Newspaper Indexes: A Location and Subject Guide for Researchers.* 3 vols. Metuchen: Scarecrow, 1977.

New York Times Index. New York: New York Times Co.

New York Times Obituaries Index, 1858-1968. New York: New York Times, 1970.

CENSUS

FEDERAL CENSUS

Many libraries own older decennial federal population census records. Microfilmed federal census records may also be obtained from the National Archives.

National Archives and Records Administration. *Fast Facts About the 1920 Census.* Washington: National Archives, 1992.

National Archives and Records Administration. *The Federal Population and Mortality Schedules, 1790-1890, in the National Archives and the States.* Washington: National Archives, 1986.

National Archives Trust Fund Board. *Federal Population Censuses, 1790-1890.* Washington: National Archives, 1979.

Catalog of National Archives microfilm reels containing the 1790-1890 census schedules.

1900 Federal Population Census. Washington: National Archives, 1985.

Catalog of National Archives microfilm reels containing the 1900 census schedules.

National Archives Trust Fund Board. *The 1910 Federal Population Census.* Washington: National Archives, 1982.

Catalog of National Archives microfilm reels containing the 1910 census schedules.

The 1920 Federal Population Census. Washington: National Archives, 1991.

Catalog of National Archives microfilm reels containing the 1920 census schedules.

Parker, J. Carlyle. *City, County, Town, and Township Index to the 1850 Federal Census Schedules.* Vol. 6 in the Gale Genealogy and Local History Ser. 6. Detroit: Gale, 1979.

STATE CENSUS

Most states have taken their own territorial or state censuses. Check with your local library.

Lainhart, Ann S. *State Census Records.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1992.

MILITARY RECORDS

Heitman, Francis B. *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army From its Organization September 29, 1789 to March 2, 1903.* 2 vols. Urbana: U of Illinois P, 1965.

Reprint of U.S. Congressional Serial Set volumes 4535-4536.

National Archives and Records Service. *Compiled Military Records in the National Archives.* Washington: Government Printing Office, 1970.

National Archives and Records Service. *Guide to Federal Archives Relating to the Civil War.* Washington: National Archives, 1962.

National Archives and Records Service. *Military Service Records in the National Archives of the United States.* General Information Leaflet No. 7. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1985.

Briefly describes military service records open to the public 75 years after completion of service.

Navy Department. *Official Records of Union and Confederate Navies in War of the Rebellion.* Washington: GPO, 1894-1927.

Navy records of the Civil War, including an index to individuals' names.

War Department. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies.* 130 vols. Washington: GPO, 1880-1901.

Army records of the Civil War, including an index to individuals' names.

CHURCH AND CEMETERY RECORDS

Church records and gravestone inscriptions provide valuable information. Check with your local library for published church and cemetery records. Some samples are:

A Lithuanian Cemetery: St. Casimir Lithuanian Cemetery in Chicago, Ill. Edited by Algimantas Kezys. Chicago: Lithuanian Photo Library, 1976.

Robinson, D.J. *Research Inventory of the Mexican Collection of Colonial Parish Registers.* Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1980.

LAND RECORDS

Library of Congress. *Land Ownership Maps: Checklist of 19th Century U.S. County Maps in the Library of Congress.* Washington: Government Printing Office, 1967.

Smith, Clifford Neal. *Federal Land Series: A Calendar of Archival Materials on the Land Patents Issued by the United States Government, with Subject, Tract, and Name Indexes.* 4 vols. Chicago: American Library Association, 1972-1986.

Indexes early U.S. land grants, and offers a means of locating persons before the first decennial federal censuses were taken in sparsely settled areas.

PERIODICALS

Periodicals help researchers to share information and to keep current in the field. Many family, county, and state associations publish genealogical magazines. Check *Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory* at your local library for more titles.

American Genealogist. Des Moines: The American Genealogist.

Burke's Family Index. London: Burke's Peerage.

Burke's Royal Families of the World: Volume 2, Africa and the Middle East. London: Burke's Peerage.

Crouch, Milton. *Directory of State and Local History Periodicals.* Chicago: American Library Association, 1977.

Debrett's Peerage and Baronetage. London: Debrett's Peerage.

Debrett's People of Today. London: Debrett's Peerage.

Genealogical Helper. Logan: Everton.

Genealogical Periodical Annual Index. Bowie, Maryland.

Index to Genealogical Periodicals. Newhall, California.

Names: Journal of the American Name Society. Potsdam: State University College.

National Archives and Records Administration. *Prologue: The Journal of the National Archives*. Washington: National Archives.

National Genealogical Society Quarterly. Washington, D.C.: The Society.

New England Historical and Genealogical Register. Boston: The Register.

HISTORY AND FAMILY HISTORIES

The best place to start genealogical research is to gather information from your relatives. Much information can be obtained from old family Bibles, diaries, and letters. In addition, many published family, county, and state histories can be found in libraries. Archives collections often contain unpublished family papers. Some samples of published family histories include:

Barnoya Galvez, Francisco. *Genealogia de las Familias Barnoya de Espana y Guatemala, 1614-1966*. Guatemala: Talleres de la Editorial del Ejercito, 1967.

Costa de la Torre, Arturo. *Ensayo Genealogico de la Familia de la Torre: Sucesion y Descendencia en Bolivia*. La Paz: Empresa Editora Universo, 1971.

Loggins, Vernon. *The Hawthornes: The Story of Seven Generations of an American Family*. New York: Greenwood, 1968.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

America the Beautiful Fund. *Old Glory: A Pictorial Report on the Grass Roots History Movement, and the First Hometown History Primer*. Washington, 1973.

Cannings, C. *Genealogical and Genetic Structure*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981.

Genealogy and Computers: Proceedings of the Reference and Adult Services Division, History Section, Genealogy Committee Program. Chicago: American Library Association, 1986.

The Hereditary Register of the United States of America. Washington: U.S. Hereditary Register, 1973.

Hutton, Mary Louise Marshall. *Seventeenth Century Colonial Ancestors of Members of the National Society of Colonial Dames XVII Century, 1915-1975*. Ann Arbor: Edwards Brothers, 1976.

Geological Survey. *Maps Can Help You Trace Your Family Tree*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1991.

Immigration and Naturalization Service. *U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service Records, Genealogical Research, and the Freedom of Information Act*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1993.

The Library: A Guide to the LDS Family History Library. Salt Lake City: Ancestry Pub., 1988.

Postal Service. *Plant a Family Tree (form)*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1988.

Proceedings of the... Continental Congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Washington: DAR, 1919-1921.

ROOTS-L@ndsuvm1.bitnet. Electronic genealogy discussion group.

United States Congress. *U.S. Congressional Serial Set*. Washington: Government Printing Office.

Compilation of House and Senate reports and documents. Includes:

Serial Set volume 45. Letter from the Secretary of State with a transcript of passengers who arrived in the United States from the 1st October 1819, to the 30th September, 1820. *Serial Set volumes 1945-1946*. List of private land claims, Senate, 14th-16th Congress.

The *Serial Set* is indexed by the CIS *U.S. Serial Set Index* and Philip McMullin's *Grassroots of America*.

United States Statutes at Large. Washington: Office of the Federal Register; Boston: C. Little and J. Brown, 1789-.

The chronological record of public and private laws passed by Congress. At the end of Part II for each volume is an individual name index to the private laws.

AGENCIES

Daughters of the American Revolution. 1776 D. St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006-5392. Phone: 202-628-1776.

Family History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. 50 E. North Tempe, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150. Phone: 801-240-2331. Also check local directories for a stake office in your area.

Genealogical Institute. P.O. Box 22045, Salt Lake City, Utah 84122. Phone: 801-532-3327.

Genealogical Publishing Company. 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, Maryland 21202. Phone: 410-837-8271.

General Society of Mayflower Descendants. P.O. Box 3297, Plymouth, Mass. 02361. Phone: 508-746-3188.

National Archives. Public Information Office. Washington, D.C. 20408. Phone: 202-501-5525.

National Genealogical Society. 4527 17th St. N., Arlington, Virginia 22207-2399. Phone: 703-525-0050.

New England Historic Genealogical Society. 99-101 Newbury St., Boston, Mass. 02116. Phone: 617-536-5740.

Sons of the American Revolution. 1000 S. 4th St., Louisville, Kentucky 40203. Phone: 502-589-1776.